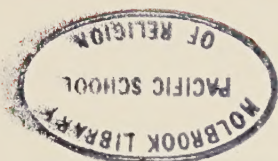


ECUMENICAL PRESS SERVICE

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Moscow Church Makes Big Gift to WCC Libraries

(Geneva) - The Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church has offered 400 books from the Moscow Church's theological academies and seminaries for the World Council of Churches libraries.

The Metropolitan Nikolai, head of the External Relations office of the Russian church, sent the list of books to WCC headquarters in Geneva as part of an agreement made last year for an exchange of literature between the Council and the Moscow Patriarchate, which is not a member of the WCC.

A gift of recent theological books had already been sent by the World Council to the libraries of the Patriarchate and of its Zagorsk and Leningrad theological academies.

The Russian offer included 40 books in Russian and 360 in German, French and English, published between 1665 and 1914. The Russian books are mostly on Orthodox theology. The others include many rare standard works on the growth of the ecumenical movement in the 19th century and first or early editions of well-known books such as Vladimir Solovyev's "Russia and the Church Universal".

WCC staff members said that the additions would be "most valuable" for the Council's collection, already regarded as the best library in existence on the ecumenical movement.

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The Metropolitan Nikolai's acknowledgement of the WCC gift said the exchange would "serve the cause of mutual understanding". The World Council's letter of thanks for the Moscow gift referred to "the renewed evidence it gives of the ways in which the Holy Spirit of truth and unity is working for the reconciliation of all to our mutual enrichment in the knowledge and obedience of our common Lord".

EPS, Geneva

Church of Scotland Will Mark 4th Century of Reformation

(Edinburgh) - The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend the inaugural ceremonies of the special three-day meeting (October 11-13) of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland commemorating the four hundredth anniversary of the Reformation in Scotland.

The centenary celebrations in Edinburgh will open with a thanksgiving service in the High Kirk and will include special meetings of the church's women's and youth organisations, an historical pageant and a Festival of Reformed Praise. Speakers will be Dr. John A. Mackay, immediate past president of the World Alliance of Reformed and Presbyterian Churches, and Dr. Henri d'Espine, president of the Swiss Protestant Federation.

EPS, Geneva

Cardinal Describes Unity Secretariat's Aim

(New York) - The head of the new secretariat on Christian unity set up by Pope John XXIII to deal with relations with non-Roman Catholic Christians in preparation for the Second Vatican Council has described his coming work. (See EPS No. 22)

Augustin Cardinal Bea said an attempt would be made to move toward union, first through "understanding" and then "rapprochement". He outlined plans for his staff to make contact with non-Roman Catholic churches, in helping them "to follow the Council's work".

According to the cardinal, who was addressing a press conference called at Fordham University in New York where he received an honorary degree, recent biblical studies carried on by European Protestants, especially in Germany, showed that they were "coming closer to the Catholic faith through their own efforts".

Cardinal Bea said he would act as the liaison between the Council and non-Roman Christians, giving them the opportunity to follow it through inquiries and suggestions.

Although he predicted that the new Vatican Council might be prepared for "avenues of concession" toward other churches on liturgy and discipline, he stressed that concessions on doctrine would be impossible.


Cardinal Bea declared that differences between the Roman Catholic Church and Eastern Christians were "more psychological than doctrinal", but included the dogma of Papal infallibility.

Cardinal Bea, a German-born member of the Jesuit order, is 79 and was formerly rector of the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and private confessor to the late Pope Pius XII.

EPS, Geneva

Serbian Patriarch Enthroned at Pec

(Belgrade) - Patriarch German has been enthroned as the spiritual leader of eight million Serbian Orthodox in Yugoslavia in a ceremony at the century-old Patriarchate church at Pec.



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The rites were performed by the four oldest Serbian Orthodox archbishops after an impressive religious service conducted by 17 bishops and a score of Serbian Orthodox priests.

Patriarch German was elected head of the church about two years ago and first enthroned in Belgrade. Pec was the seat of the Patriarchate from 1364 to 1766 when it was moved to Sremski Karlovci. With the establishment of Yugoslavia as a nation in 1918 it was moved to the capital city of Belgrade. However, Pec remains a leading historic centre.

It was also reported last week that Patriarch German has been awarded the Order of the Yugoslav Banner, first class, for "his merits in the development and strengthening of peaceful co-operation and friendly relations" between Yugoslavia and other countries.

The award was made by Mr. Dobrivoje Vidic, a member of the Federal Executive Council, on behalf of President Tito, at a ceremony at Belgrade attended by high-ranking government and church officials.

Mr. Dobrivoje Radosavljevic, a member of President Tito's cabinet in charge of religious affairs, said in an address following the ceremony that the many important questions between the Orthodox Church and the state had now been successfully settled and the Church can look forward to the assistance and co-operation of the state.

EPS, Geneva

Asian Hymnal Planned

(Hong Kong) - The East Asian Christian Conference will produce a hymn book of Asian hymns and Asian tunes.

The working committee of the EACC made the decision at a recent meeting in Hong Kong. The hymnal will be used primarily for international church gatherings in Asia.

The meeting also planned a series of international consultations between Asian churches. The first of these, scheduled for October, will study what kinds of service the Asian churches should be rendering in the midst of the revolutionary changes taking place in their countries.

EPS, Geneva

Four Areas to Have New Christian Education Materials

(New York) - Publication of indigenously prepared Christian education material is underway in India, Africa, the Near East and for English-speaking groups in the Caribbean under a comprehensive programme sponsored by the World Council of Christian Education and Sunday School Association. Plans are also being started for preparation of literature for Chinese outside of the Chinese mainland.

Purpose of the worldwide programme is to provide materials written and produced by nationals in their own language to meet specific contemporary needs in each country.

The new programme was reported to a recent meeting of the WCESSA's North American Committee in New York. Other plans include a leadership training project for some 20 education specialists of various denominations who will work for three years with a national worker in various regions or countries.

The Committee also approved plans to send a youth work specialist to Africa for three years, starting July 1961. The African churches have requested the aid to conduct leadership training institutes for youth workers and others, help develop youth work materials and correlate work of the All-Africa Sunday School curriculum.

It was also reported that a survey of courses on marriage and the family offered by seminaries in the "younger churches" and in the USA is underway by a newly-formed Committee on Adult Work and Family Life. EPS, Geneva

Harrelson Rejects Bid to Vanderbilt Deanship

(Nashville, Tenn.) - Dr. Walter J. Harrelson, former Dean of the University of Chicago Divinity School, has declined to accept the deanship of Vanderbilt University's Divinity School.

Dr. Harrelson has been offered the post in an effort to end the crisis provoked May 30 when Dean J. Robert Nelson and ten of his faculty members resigned when the University refused to re-admit a Negro Divinity School student who had been expelled for his activities in the "sit-in" strikes protesting segregated eating facilities in Nashville. (See EPS No. 22)

Dr. Harrelson, who had been recently appointed professor of Old Testament at the Vanderbilt Divinity School, resigned from that post, becoming the eleventh faculty member to leave in protest over the University's action. In a statement declining the bid Dr. Harrelson said it was because "it is now clear that I have been unable to assist in the settlement of the difficulties ..." He said he undertook to be of help "only with great reluctance" and that "the stand of Dean Nelson and the ten faculty members who resigned had my support from the start".

Sources described as "unimpeachable" reported last week that unless the crisis is settled to their satisfaction, upward of 25 members of University faculty will also resign. This group was reported to include the Dean and four department heads from the School of Medicine as well as a substantial majority of the faculties in the Physics, Chemistry and Political Science Departments.

University Chancellor Harvie Branscomb who precipitated the crisis by refusal to re-admit the Negro student, the Rev. James M. Lawson, has accepted the divinity faculty resignations. Dr. Nelson's resignation is effective August 31. Most of the other resignations are effective next year.

Mr. Lawson has enrolled at Boston University School of Theology where he expects to complete his bachelor of divinity degree this summer. He plans to return to Nashville in the middle of August to become pastor of a Methodist church. Members of the faculties of three more Protestant seminaries have issued statements supporting the Vanderbilt resignations. They are Union Seminary, New York Harvard Divinity School and the Episcopal Theological School, New York. Princeton Theological Seminary faculty had earlier supported the resignations.

EPS, Geneva

Eisenhower Will Not Visit Shrine

(Tokyo) - The US Embassy in Tokyo has given its assurance that President Eisenhower will not visit Meiji Shrine in Tokyo during his trip to Japan.

The National Christian Council of Japan and the NCC in the US have protested that the visit to the Shinto shrine might "undermine the new constitutional guarantee of separation of religion and the state" and might have "possible serious implications" for Christians in Asia. (See EPS No. 20) EPS, Geneva

Racial Integration in Disciples Programme

(Indianapolis, Ind.) - Racial integration in two major phases of their national programme and the merger of Negro and white conventions in two states have been announced by the Disciples of Christ (USA).

The national actions, taken after a four-year study, transfer the programme, services and staff of the National Christian Missionary Convention to the United Christian Missionary Society. The former group represents 587 Negro congregations with a total membership of 82,000 in 27 states. The United Society is a predominantly white group with a membership of nearly 2,000,000 persons in 8,000 churches in the US and Canada.

State conventions involved in mergers are in Kansas and Ohio. In both states the convention of Negro Disciples churches and of the white Disciples churches will be joined. An estimated 400 to 500 local Disciple congregations are now bi-racial or multi-racial according to a recent survey and 2,000 other congregations have expressed their willingness to welcome persons of other races.

EPS, Geneva

Professorship Honours Reinhold Niebuhr

(New York) - The Reinhold Niebuhr Professorship of Social Ethics has been created at Union Theological Seminary, New York, in honour of the famed theologian who retired May 30 as vice-president and senior member of the seminary's faculty.

Dr. Henry P. Van Dusen, Seminary president, said the chair was established as a tribute to Dr. Niebuhr's nearly half a century of "creative leadership in social, political and religious thought".

Named as first incumbent of the new professorship was Dr. John C. Bennett, dean of the Seminary and long-time friend and associate of Dr. Niebuhr.

Contributing to the fund for the professorship were over 500 persons and 70 sponsors from a number of countries, including Protestants, Roman Catholics and Jews from government, labour, religion, education, philosophy, literature, economics and other fields.

Dr. Niebuhr joined the Seminary faculty in 1928 as associate professor of philosophy of religion, becoming professor of Applied Christianity two years later. He held that position until 1955 when he was made the Charles A. Briggs Graduate Professor of Ethics and Theology and also vice-president of the Seminary. He served as Faculty Dean from 1950 to 1955. Dr. Niebuhr is the author of over 15 books and was the founder and is the co-editor of Christianity and Crisis, a Christian journal of opinion.

Dr. Niebuhr has announced that his retirement does not mean he plans to stop work. This summer he will work on a project for the Fund for the Republic's Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions at Santa Barbara, Calif. Next fall he will teach a seminar for Union Seminary and also work with the Institute for War and Peace Studies of Columbia University, New York.

EPS, Geneva

1,000 in 1960 Ecumenical Work Camps

(Geneva) - In 31 countries throughout the world this summer more than 1,000 youth with strong backs and a zeal for Christian service will work without pay to help others less fortunate than themselves.

They will build roads, plant trees, paint houses, care for refugee children, lay the foundations for a new church and dozens of other projects in ecumenical work camps sponsored by the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches.

47 work camps are scheduled this summer: 25 in Europe and the Middle East; six in Africa; eight in Asia; seven in North America and one in Latin America.

Participating in each camp will be an inter-racial, inter-confessional group of from 15 to 25 youth between the ages of 19 and 30. They will come from 55 countries and will represent the Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox confessions.

Each of the camps will last about one month and the camp schedule includes about six hours a day labour, daily worship, Bible study, and discussion and recreation periods.

All of the campers will volunteer their labour and in addition will also contribute to their living expenses and pay for the cost of their transportation to and from their homes and the camps.

Camps will be held for the first time this year in four African countries - the Belgian Congo, Ghana, Kenya and Southern Rhodesia - and in Costa Rica.

The addition of these five countries brings to a total of 51 the number in which camps have been held as a means of giving youth "the opportunity to express their sense of responsibility by working with their hands to meet human need". In all more than 10,000 youth will have participated in the programme since it was started 13 years ago.

The work camps programme was started by the Congregational Christian Service Committee (USA). It was taken over as a programme of the World Council of Churches in 1950.

EPS, Geneva

Terrorists Murder Missionary

(Douala) - A 31-year old Alsatian minister has died as the result of head injuries inflicted during an attack by African terrorists in Douala, Cameroun.

The Rev. Bernard Kopp and three other Europeans were reported attacked in a daylight raid while they were making purchases in a store in the capital city.

Mr. Kopp was recently named director of the Theological Seminary of the Evangelical Church of Cameroun. He had previously served for two years as a missionary in the country.

EPS, Geneva

Aid Sent to Iran Quake Victims

(Geneva) - Aid for victims of disaster-stricken Lar in southern Iran, devastated by two successive earthquakes on April 24, now totals \$3,100.

The funds came from the British Council of Churches, \$1,400; Sweden, \$1,000; the Presbyterian Church of Canada, \$600; and the Protestant churches in France, \$100. In addition, US churches through Church World Service have sent thousands of pounds of blankets, clothing and food supplies, as well as medicines, to the area. The assistance was forwarded in response to an appeal of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees of the World Council of Churches.

EPS, Geneva

Churches Aid Chile Quake Victims

(Geneva) - Church support for victims of the earthquakes and tidal waves in Chile now totals more than \$155,000.

Funds sent in response to a telegraphed appeal by the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees of the World Council of Churches came from Germany, \$119,140; Great Britain, \$14,000; the Netherlands, \$10,000 (\$6,000 in cash and \$4,000 in goods); New Zealand, \$2,790; Norway, \$1,000; Sweden, \$2,000; and from the United States, Church World Service, \$5,000 and Lutheran World Relief, \$1,500.

In addition shipments of 80,000 pounds of food and multi-vitamin tablets, anti-typhoid serum and penicillin valued at \$15,000 have been air-lifted to the disaster areas by Church World Service (US).

Distribution of church-contributed supplies is being supervised by the Ayuda Christiana Evangelica, a co-operative organisation of the Chilean churches. Assisting are WCC and CWS representatives in Chile and from Argentina.

Large numbers of Protestant and Roman Catholic churches and church buildings such as schools and parsonages are reported destroyed or severely damaged by the quakes. All Methodist churches and parsonages in the 1,000 mile long affected zone were badly damaged and in three towns were completely destroyed. Nearly nine-tenths of the 25,000-member Evangelic Lutheran Church are located in the disaster area and many of its buildings were also reported destroyed. The Presbytery of Chile has reported churches in four areas destroyed or severely damaged. Damage to Roman Catholic churches and other buildings was also widespread and has been estimated in the "tens of millions of dollars".

In addition to aid sent to Chile the WCC Division also sent \$2,500 to help survivors of the tidal waves and quakes in the Philippines, in answer to a request cabled by the East Asian Christian Conference. No special appeal has been issued for victims of the Hong Kong typhoon or tidal waves in Japan. Church relief officials in both places have reported sufficient goods and funds on hand to meet immediate needs.

EPS, Geneva

French Synod Asks Study of Algerian Problem

(Toulouse) - The National Synod of the French Reformed Church has called upon its congregations to study the Algerian conflict so that French popular opinion will be mobilized in support of the decision "most compatible with the implications of God's will".

A declaration adopted by the Synod at its two-day meeting last week in Toulouse stated that while the church should not attempt to arbitrate questions of political difference between its members, it has an obligation to concern itself with political problems. It asked the Church's National Council to conduct a study of the Algerian situation as a guide for members.

EPS, Geneva

In Brief

The US Supreme Court has by unanimous decision upheld the right of Archbishop Boris, appointee of the Moscow Patriarchate as head of the Patriarchal Russian Orthodox Church in the US, to possession and control of St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral in New York City. Control of the cathedral had been in dispute since 1924 when a large majority of clergy and members of the Russian Orthodox Church in the US established the autonomous Russian Orthodox Church of North America on the ground that the Moscow Patriarchate had become a tool of an atheist state.

* *

The Roman Catholic priest in Akirkeby, Denmark, has offered the use of his church to the local Lutheran congregation for services while its building is being repaired. The Lutheran congregation had already made plans to have services in their parish hall, a spokesman said, but the church was grateful for the offer and would accept it on occasions when members of the congregations wished to have a church ceremony.

* *

Amsterdam in the Netherlands now has a church information centre for local residents and visitors. Facts about church life and work, sightseeing and coming events will be available, with Bibles in many languages, books, church periodicals, recordings of church music and postcards of old and new churches. The local ecumenical council has co-operated in the venture with foreign-language congregations, the Gereformeerde churches, the Dutch Bible Society and other agencies.

* *

The Soviet Ambassador to Israel, Mikhail Bodrov, attended a Pentecost Monday Russian Orthodox liturgy in Jerusalem. The liturgy in Greek, Slavonic and Arabic was also attended by Greek Orthodox Patriarch Benediktos of Jerusalem, who crossed from Jordan for the service. Friendly relations with all groups in Israel have been promoted by Archimandrite Augustin, head of the Moscow Patriarchate's Russian Orthodox mission in Jerusalem since last autumn.

* *

Delegates from the United Protestant Church of the Palatinate and the churches of the International Congregational Council have met at Pentecost in Speyer to study a draft Statement of Faith being prepared "as an affirmation of those things generally believed by Congregationalists in the middle of the twentieth century". Good progress toward agreement on the positive statement was reported between the two groups, which had already concluded an agreement on unrestricted "communion of pulpit and Lord's table" in 1957.

* *

The Church of Sweden has announced plans to manufacture pre-fabricated churches to be set up in summer resort areas and similar spots. The buildings will seat about 100 people and will come equipped with separate bell towers at a cost of about \$23,000.

* *

Miss Janet Lacey, director of the Department of Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Service of the British Council of Churches, has been named a Commander of the Order of the British Empire "for service to refugees" in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. The BCC Department raised over one and a quarter million pounds during World Refugee Year and in Miss Lacey's term of office as director since 1952 has become the largest British agency at work in the refugee field.

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An American woman who died in Geneva in 1958 has bequeathed more than \$1,000,000 to the programme of the United Nations to aid refugees. The bequest of the late Miss Helen Thurnaur wills securities valued at about \$800,000 to the American Association for the United Nations to benefit refugees within the High Commissioner's mandate and an additional amount of approximately \$250,000 bequeathed directly to the UNHCR office for refugees. The money, which represents the bulk of Miss Thurnauer's estate, was reported to have been given outright, rather than placed in a trust fund, to provide aid during World Refugee Year. It is the largest single private contribution ever given to the UNHCR work.

* *

A Protestant evangelist, Michael Markogamvrakis, of the Greek Free Evangelical Church, has been sentenced at Neapolis, Crete, to five months imprisonment and a fine of 3,000 drachmas (\$50) on charges of proselytising among Greek Orthodox people. He has organized three congregations on the island of Crete. Markogamvrakis has appealed against the sentence to a higher court.

EPS, Geneva

